

Message Text

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TAGS: EAGR
SUBJECT: PRC: NCNA STATEMENT ON PRC RAPESEED HARVEST AND PROCUREMENT
POLICIES

1. THE COMBINED TOTAL OF RAPESEED PRODUCED BY CHINA'S FOUR LEADING GROWERS -- SZECHWAN, HUNAN, KIANGSU AND CHEKIANG PROVINCES -- HAS REPORTEDLY REACHED A NEW RECORD THIS YEAR (NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, NCNA, 6/26/78). SZECHWAN, CHINA'S LEADING PRODUCER, INCREASED THE ACREAGE BY 30,000 HECTARES AND THE YIELD PER HECTARE WAS ALSO SAID TO BE UP OVER LAST YEAR. NCNA ATTRIBUTED THE BUMPER HARVEST IN SZECHWAN TO NEW STATE POLICIES, WHICH INCLUDED THE PAYMENT OF HIGHER PRICES FOR VOLUNTARY SALES AND THE AWARDED OF ADDITIONAL GRAIN, CHEMICAL FERTILIZER OR VEGETABLE OIL TO PRODUCTION BRIGADES MAKING VOLUNTARY SALES TO THE STATE. 1/ NO CLAIMS WERE REPORTED FOR HUNAN BUT PURCHASES WERE SAID TO HAVE TOPPED THE STATE PURCHASING PLAN AND WERE MORE THAN DOUBLE THOSE OF LAST YEAR. KIANGSU WAS SAID TO HAVE SOWN ITS USUAL 200,000 HECTARES OF RAPESEED PLUS ADDITIONAL SCATTERED PLOTS OF IDLE LAND THEREBY ENABLING THE PROVINCE TO SEED A RECORD ACREAGE THIS YEAR. OUTPUT IN CHEKIANG WAS SAID TO HAVE DELINED FOR SEVERAL YEARS, BUT A NUMBER OF COUNTIES,
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COMMUNES, AND BRIGADES SET ALL TIME HIGHS AND PER HECTARE YIELD AND OUTTURN IN 1978.

2. COMMENT: THE NCNA ARTICLE IS A PARTIAL SUMMARY OF PROVINCIAL REPORTING TO DATE (REF. HK-8026, TOFAS 143). INCREASED OUTTURN IS IMPLIED TO BE MORE THE RESULT OF INCREASED ACREAGE THAN TO HIGHER PER HECTARE YIELDS. THE ARTICLE DOES NOT SAY THAT ALL OF THE

PROVINCES LISTED ATTAINED A RECORD OUTTURN, ONLY THAT THE COMBINED TOTAL WAS A RECORD. THIS IS GENERALLY CONSISTANT WITH PROVINCIAL REPORTS. CHEKIANG HAS CLAIMED A RECORD OUTTURN ALTHOUGH THE NCNA STATEMENT THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTIES, COMMUNES, AND BRIGADES SET ALL TIME HIGHS IN YIELD AND OUTTURN DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT PROVINCIAL OUTTURN WAS A RECORD. NO RECORD HAD BEEN OR WAS CLAIMED FOR EITHER KIANGSU OR HUNAN. THIS IS THE FIRST REPORT ON THE HARVEST IN SZECHWAN. NO CLAIM WAS MADE FOR A RECORD OUTTURN DESPITE A SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN ACREAGE AND HIGHER PER HECTARE YIELD.

1/ COMPULSORY SALES TO THAT PORTION OF THE CROP THAT MUST BE SOLD TO THE STATE AT A LOW PRICE. VOLUNTARY SALES ARE THOSE SALES MADE TO THE STATE OVER AND ABOVE THE QUOTA FOR COMPULSORY SALES AND/OR TAX IN KIND DELIVERIES.

3. THE ARTICLE IS ESPECIALLY SINGIFICANT BECAUSE OF THE APPARENTLY NEW POLICIES INTRODUCED IN SZECHWAN. THE STATE HAS USED INCREASED PRICES FOR VOLUNTARY SALEA AS A TOOL TO INCREASE STATE PROCUREMENT IN THE PAST. THIS POLICY HAS ALSO LEAD TO INCREASED OUTPUT. WHILE A PART OF THE INCREASE HAS BEEN THE RESULT OF PLANTING HIGH VALUE CROPS ON WASTE LAND, UNACCEPTABLE IDSLOCATION AND RE-DISTRIBUTION OF ACREAGE HAS ALSO OCCURRED. THE PLOY OF REWARDING PRODUCTION TEAMS, BRIGADES, OR COMMUNES WITH GRAIN, CHEMICAL FERTILIZER, OR VEGETABLE OIL FOR EXCEEDING SALES QUOTAS APPARENTLY UNCLASSIFIED

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IS NEW. IT IS NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME IF THIS TECHNIQUE IS ON TRIAL IN SZECHWAN OR IS ACCEPTED POLICY THROUGHOUT CHINA, OR IF ONLY RAPESEED, ALL OILSEEDS, OR ALL INDUSTRIAL CROPS ARE INCLUDED IN THE PROGRAM. CLEARLY, THE QUANTITY OF GRAIN, CHEMICAL FERTILIZER AND VEGETABLE OIL THE STATE CAN MADE AVAILABLE FOR REWARDS TO RUARAL AREAS IS LIMITED. HOWEVER THIS, PLUS HIGHER PRICES FOR VOLUNTARY SALES, SHOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE METHOD OF INCREASING PROCUREMENT AND ALSO OUTTURN OF SELECTED CROPS. THERE IS ALWAYS THE DANGER THAT THE PROGRAM COULD GET OUT OF HAND AS IT HAS ON PAST OCCASIONS UNLESS THE STATE HAS SUFFICIENT CONTROL OVER THE PEASANTRY TO INSURE THAT THE ACREAGE PLAN FOR GRAIN IS FULFILLED. ERISMAN

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